

SEP 06 2006

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0008] While there have been attempts to provide systems to level a vehicle, there remains a desire and need in the art for a vehicle leveling system and method using a combination outrigger and jack mount suitable for aerial ladder mounts. Such application would allow for greater flexibility and therefore greater usefulness of a vehicle over an increased variety of terrains. ~~to terrain.~~

[0011] In another embodiment of the present invention an outrigger assembly for stabilizing a vehicle includes a pair of elongated support housings each adapted to be pivotally attached to the vehicle at a pivot point, each adapted to extend toward opposite sides of the vehicle from each other. Each housing has an open end with an extendible-retractable beam telescopically fitted therein. A linear actuator, preferably a double-acting hydraulic cylinder is provided for extending and retracting each beam. A jack tower is affixed to an outer end of each beam, preferably at an oblique angle offset from the perpendicular. The jack tower includes a first component, preferably a hydraulic cylinder affixed to the beam and a second extendible retractable component, preferably a hydraulic piston and rod telescopically fitted in the first component. Independently controllable actuators are provided for extending and retracting ~~restricting~~ the second component, the beam and for pivoting each housing about its pivot point.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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